

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH AND  
SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

April 14, 2015

**AMENDMENT TO ITEM #20**

Children in foster care suffer from significant mental health issues at a much higher rate than the community at large. To help address this issue, Los Angeles County launched new programmatic services in 1998 to include family members as “experts” on the needs of their own families, and help acknowledge each family’s particular strengths and identify their needs. This new way of service delivery became known as “wraparound” and was intended for children and youth who are in or are at risk of being placed in a high-level of care group home. This increased support to children and families in their own homes and in their own communities, was intended to reduce group home care for our most vulnerable population.

Wraparound services provide family-centered, home-based services to children with multiple, complex and enduring mental health and behavioral needs. The County contracts with private agencies to deliver these intensive and comprehensive services in local communities.

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RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
KUEHL	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____

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These wraparound contracts have become more important to the County in helping to serve children with mental health needs as evidenced by the County's required participation in the Katie A. Settlement Agreement, which was the result of a lawsuit against the County and the State of California for its servicing of this population of foster youth with mental health issues.

Today's item is a recommendation to enter into agreements with 49 wraparound mental health service providers who have already begun the process of transitioning the program to more clinically-based mental health services – which are required to be claimed against EPSDT billing. In order to better serve the needs of this population, and help the County move toward a more integrated service delivery while expanding the role of clinical mental health therapies, these contracts should naturally transition to the Department of Mental Health, from the Department of Children of Family Services.

To align the new wraparound contracts with upcoming fiscal year, the contract must be extended to 14 months, rather than 12 months, (from May 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016). Supporting the expansion of wraparound's clinical focus by progressively increasing the ratio of EPSDT-claimable clinical services as compared to non-EPSDT services requires a transfer of wraparound program and contract administration from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to the Department of Mental Health Services (DMH) during the first 14-month contract term.

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**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT** the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Probation and Mental Health (DMH) to immediately proceed with the efficient implementation of the new Wraparound Services contracts in order to ensure continuity of care to the high needs children and youth of Los Angeles County with an initial contract term of 14 months (spanning from May 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016), with an option to extend each contract up to four additional years.
2. Direct the CEO, in collaboration with DCFS, DMH and Probation to conduct a review of the Wraparound program no later than 12 months following the initiation of contracts. This review, submitted as a report in a Board memo, should include an analysis of the case rate to Medi-Cal ratio, the ability of providers to meet the enrollment expansion goals identified by the County, and the ability of providers to achieve successful outcomes for the high needs children and youth receiving Wraparound services.
3. Instruct the CEO to work with the Directors of DCFS and DMH to take the actions necessary to achieve optimal arrangements for administrative and programmatic oversight of the Wraparound (including an assessment of any needed resources) and transition the wraparound program and contract administration from DCFS to DMH no later than June 30, 2016.

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*s/2015motions/AmendmentToItem#20 04/15/15*